

BHDDH Bulletin



March 2016

Transportation Program

on March 1st, BHDDH and RIPTA launched a pilot program for individuals with developmental disabilities who are currently using Ride and RIPTA buses for transportation from home to a service provider program, work, or to a meaningful activity. *All BHDDH-licensed, developmental disability service providers will be part of this pilot program.*

The program, Coordinated Transportation Exchange (CTE), is part of Governor Raimondo's initiative to improve State services and part of BHDDH's vision to be a leader in the development of innovative programs that improve care delivery, strengthen the service delivery network and best serve those who use the BHDDH system.

BHDDH-funded Ride trips are typically booked independently by an individual or by the service provider. This practice will not change so that information between individuals, service providers and Ride is consistent.

FOR Ride PARTICIPANTS: BHDDH trips can be scheduled up to the day before you are due to travel. Standing Orders, which are trips that occur on a daily or weekly basis such as trips to day sites or in some cases work, only need to be scheduled once.

Reserving a Ride

To make a reservation, call (401) 461-9760 between 8:30 am and 4:30 pm from Monday through Friday. On Saturdays and Sundays, you may make reservations between 8:00 am and 4:00 pm.

In place of RIPTIKs on the Ride van, individuals will be signing a tablet upon entering the van. Please notify RIPTA at (401) 461-9760 if someone cannot sign the tablet.

Regular Bus Service

Individuals using RIPTA's bus service will be getting free, unlimited passes and will not be required to pay the 50 cent fare when it goes into effect.

FOR SERVICE PROVIDERS: Facility administrators or assigned staff will be required to provide Ride with a list of BHDDH-approved travel locations for individuals who are not traveling based on standing orders. A list of those who travel on a FLEX bus or the RIPTA city buses must also be submitted. Finally, you will be tasked with providing Ride a list of customers that travel on FLEX bus or the RIPTA city bus so that no-cost bus passes can be issued to customers on the list.

This pilot program is a work in progress; please rest assured that we will continue to reevaluate it as we go along to make sure that it is meeting your needs.

The Director's Corner

Hi folks,

First and foremost, I want to thank everyone who reached out after we sent out our SLA e-news in January. We deeply appreciated the kind words and support of so many who understand that our commitment is to provide the most-integrated life for those who choose it.

In other news, I want to extend a special (and very big) thanks to Pam Goes who has offered to work with our department in setting up a Facebook page for our DD families. Pam, along with my staff, will work to ensure that timely information gets posted to the page. We truly appreciate her offer since we are in the process of revamping our website.

Speaking of websites, have you checked out the new Developmental Disability News site at <http://olmstead-ddnews.org>. This website covers the long-term impact of the landmark 2014 Consent Decree between the U.S. Department of Justice and the State of Rhode Island. The Consent Decree aims to enforce the rights of people with intellectual or developmental disabilities to seek competitive employment and access to other community-based activities. Federal oversight in the combined cases is expected to continue until 2024. Gina Macris is the owner of the site and a career journalist with 43 years' experience as a reporter for the Providence Journal and had retired in 2012. During her time at the newspaper, she wrote two series about her first-born son, Michael M. Smith. Both series won prizes from the New England Associated Press News Executives Association. We thank Gina for providing unbiased and timely reporting on an important topic.

I hope you'll check it out! Take care,
Maria